Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ World History (Zeta)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Primary Sources about the Crusades

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|  | Words to Look Up in Dictionary  *Answer during your 1st reading of the text* | Questions about the Document  *Answer during your 2nd reading of the text* |
| **Document 1**  *This is an excerpt from the speech that Pope Urban II gave in 1095, on the eve of the Crusades, to all of Christendom.*  …."Although, O sons of God, **you (1)** have promised more firmly than ever to keep the peace among yourselves and to preserve the rights of the church, there remains still an important work for you to do. Freshly quickened by the divine correction, you must apply the strength of your righteousness to another matter which concerns you as well as God. **For your brethren who live in the east (2)** are in urgent need of your help, and you must hasten to give them the aid which has often been promised them. For, as the most of you have heard, the Turks and Arabs have attacked them and have conquered the territory of Romania [the Greek empire] as far west as the shore of the Mediterranean and the Hellespont, which is called the Arm of St. George.  **They** **(3)** have occupied more and more of the lands of those Christians, and have overcome them in seven battles. They have killed and captured many, and have destroyed the churches and devastated the empire.  If you permit them to continue thus for awhile with impurity, the faithful of God will be much more widely attacked by them **(4).** On this account I, or rather the Lord, beseech you as Christ's heralds to publish this everywhere and to persuade all people of whatever rank, foot-soldiers and knights, poor and rich, to carry aid promptly to those Christians and to destroy that vile race from the lands of our friends... **Moreover, Christ commands it. (5**)”  **All who die by the way, whether by land or by sea, or in battle against the pagans, shall have immediate remission of sins. This I grant them through the power of God with which I am invested. (6)** O what a disgrace if such a despised and base race, which worships demons, should conquer a people which has the faith of omnipotent {all-powerful} God and is made glorious with the name of Christ!.... |  | (1) Who does “you” refer to?  (2) Who exactly does Pope Urban mean when he says “your brethren who live in the east”?  (3) Who does “they” refer to?  (4) What does the pope say will happen if Christians do not fight against the Muslims now?  (5) According to the pope, what does Christ command?  (6) What will a person gets as a reward to those who respond to his plea?  \*Overall, what image of Muslims does the pope paint with his words? |

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| **Document 2**  ***This is from the writings of Solomon bar Samson, a Jewish traveler in 1096.* (1)**  ….“At this time arrogant people **(2),** a people of strange speech, a nation of bitter and impetuous Frenchmen and Germans, set out for **the Holy City** **(2),** which had been desecrated by barbaric nations, there to seek their house of idolatry and banish the Ishmaelites {Muslims} and other denizens of the land… (3)  Their ranks swelled until the number of men, women, and children exceeded a locust horde covering the earth;…Now it came to pass that as **they** **(4)** passed through the towns where Jews dwelled, they said to one another: ‘Look now, we are going a long way to seek out the profane shrine and to avenge ourselves on the Ishmaelites; **when here, in our midst, are the Jews—they whose forefathers murdered and crucified him for no reason.** **(5)** Let us first **avenge ourselves on them and exterminate them from among the nations so that the name of Israel will no longer be remembered, or let them adopt our faith and acknowledge the offspring of promiscuity. (6)** ’” |  | (1) Given that the writer of this excerpt is Jewish, who do you think he may side with in the Crusades (if anyone)?  (2) Who exactly are the “arrogant people” that Samson refers to? You may wish to look at the entire paragraph.  (3) What is the “Holy City”?  (4) Who is “they”?  (5) What event from history is Samson talking about here?  (6) What do the European Christians plan to do to the Jews they’ve encountered on their way to fight in Jerusalem? |

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| **Document 3**  SOURCE: The Islamic leader Saladin’s speech urging his people to retake Jerusalem, 1187. **Saladin led the Muslims in the 3rd Crusade, which was the Crusade when Muslims took back control of Jerusalem. (1)**  “If God blesses us by enabling us to drive **His enemies** **(2)** out of Jerusalem, how fortunate and happy we would be! For Jerusalem has been controlled by **the enemy (2)** for ninety-one years, during which time God has received nothing from us here in the way of adoration. At the same time, the zeal of the Muslim rulers to deliver it languished. **Time passed, and so did many indifferent generations, while the Franks succeeded in rooting themselves strongly there** **(3).** Now God has reserved the merit of its recovery for one house, the house of the sons of Ayyub [Saladin’s family], in order to unite all hearts in appreciation of its members.” |  | (1) Was Saladin an effective leader?  (2) Who is Saladin referring to when he says “His enemies” and “the enemy”?    (3) What is Saladin’s point here?  \*Overall, according to Saladin, whose side is God on? |

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| **Document 4**  SOURCE: **Peter N. Stearns, a modern historian, from his book, *World Civlizations: The Global Experience*, 2007 (1)**    …The crusaders’ firsthand experience in the eastern Mediterranean certainly intensified European borrowing from the Muslim world that had been going on for centuries.(2) Muslim weapons, such as the famous damascene swords, were highly prized and sometimes copied by the Europeans, who were always eager to improve on their methods of making war. Muslim techniques of building fortifications were adopted by many Christian rulers, as can be seen in the castles built in Normandy [in France] and coastal England….  Richard the Lionhearted’s [a King of England] legendary preference for Muslim over Christian physicians was but one sign of the Europeans’ avid centuries-old interest in the superior scientific learning of Muslim peoples. (3)  From Muslims and Jews in Spain, Sicily, Egypt, and the Middle East, the Europeans recovered much of the Greek learning that had been lost to northern Europe during the waves of nomadic invasions after the fall of Rome. **They also mastered Arabic numerals and the decimal system, and they benefited from the great advances Arab and Persian thinkers had made in mathematics and many of the sciences. (4)** |  | (1) Is this a primary source?  (2) What exactly “intensified European borrowing from the Muslim world”?  (3) How did European kings feel about the learning produced by the Muslim world?  (4) How did the Europeans benefit from the Muslim world? |